

PROCEEDINGS
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NOTES ON *TATOUA* AND OTHER GENERA OF
EDENTATES.

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Some months ago Mr. Gerrit S. Miller, Jr., published a paper entitled 'Notes on the Naked-tailed Armadillos,* in which he showed that three generic names had been proposed for the group: *Xenurus* by Wagler in 1830, *Tatoua* by Gray in 1865, and *Lysiurus* by Ameghino in 1891. These names were all based on *Dasybus uncinatus* Linnæus, and *Xenurus* being preoccupied in ornithology, *Tatoua* was adopted as the proper designation of the genus.

Since the appearance of this paper I have made a list of the genera of Edentates which has brought to light two additional names based on *Dasybus uncinatus*, both earlier than *Tatoua* Gray. These names are *Arizostus*, proposed by Gloger † in 1841, and *Cabassous*, published by McMurtrie ‡ in 1831, only one year after Wagler's *Xenurus*. *Cabassous* (which is credited to Cuvier) is merely a Latinized form of a French term used by Cuvier and Buffon, and taken from a native name. McMurtrie frequently adopted such names in his translation of Cuvier's 'Règne Animal' and not only transformed them into Latin, but accompanied them by generic diagnoses and brief descriptions of the species. His reasons for adopting this course are explained as follows: "The absurdity of translating into English the technical portion, or the nomenclature, was too apparent to demand a moment's

* See antea, pp. 1-2.

† Hand-u. Hilfsbuch d. Naturgeschichte, p. 114, 1841.

‡ Cuvier's Animal Kingdom, Am. ed., I, p. 164, 1831.

consideration—the genius of our language forbids it. To have left these terms in French would have been inexpedient for self-evident reasons; and the idea of giving a class in Latin, an order in French, &c., presented too revolting a medley. By giving them all in Latin, the common language of science, these objections vanished.” (p. iv.)

Cabassous, instead of *Tatoua*, is therefore the earliest tenable name for the naked-tailed armadillos, and the species given by Trouessart, including the one added by Miller, will stand: *Cabassous unicinctus* (Linn.), *C. loricatus* (Natt.), *C. hispidus* (Burm.), *C. (Ziphila) lugubris* (Gray), and *C. (Ziphila) centralis* (Miller).

Other French names used by Cuvier for armadillos, which McMurtrie endeavored to preserve by putting them in Latin form, are: *Apara*, based on *Dasypustriacinctus*; *Cachicamus*, including *D. novemcinctus* and *D. septemcinctus*; and *Encoubertus*, including *D. sexcinctus* and *D. octodecimcinctus*. These names, however, are untenable, as they were only common names prior to 1831, and other generic terms had previously come into use for the groups to which they were applied. Thus *Apara* is antedated by *Tolypeutes* Illiger, 1811, *Cachicamus* by *Tatu* Blumenbach, 1803, while *Encoubertus* is a synonym of *Euphractus* Wagler, 1830, and *Dasypus* Linnæus, 1758.

Thomas* has already called attention to the fact that *Cyclopes* Gray, 1821, is the earliest tenable name for the two-toed anteater (*Myrmecophaga didactyla* Linn.), usually referred to *Cyclothurus*. But as he merely mentioned it in a discussion of the names in Gloger's 'Handbuch,' it has been apparently overlooked, and it may therefore be worth while to refer to it in this connection, as *Cyclothurus* still remains in use. As a matter of fact, *Cyclothurus*, although usually quoted as dating from 1825,† is merely a *nomen nudum* in this reference, and was first published as a valid genus in 1842, in Lesson's 'Nouveau Tableau Règne Animal,' p. 152. There are at least three other genera based on *Myrmecophaga didactyla*: *Eurypterna* Gloger, 1841, *Myrmydon* ‡ Wagler, 1830, and *Didactyles* § F. Cuvier, 1829, which are actually earlier than *Cyclothurus*, so that the latter name is clearly untenable and should give way to *Cyclopes*.

* Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist., 6th ser., XV, p. 191, Feb., 1895.

† Thomson's Annals of Philos., XXVI, p. 343, Nov., 1825.

‡ Nat. Syst. d. Amphibien, p. 36, 1830.

§ Dict. Sci. Nat., LIX, p. 501, 1829.

Tamandua, like *Cyclothurus*, is usually quoted from Thomson's Annals of Philosophy (l. c., p. 343). It was, however, merely published in a list of genera as '*Tamandua*, Gray, M. R.,' and the only pretense to a description consists of the letters 'M. R.,' referring to Gray's paper in the London Medical Repository.* This paper contains the following list of edentates :

"Tamanoir, Myrmecophaga. Lin. M. jubata. Lin.

Tamandua, Myrmecophaga *tamandua*. Cuv.

Ant-eater, Cyclopes, G. Myrmecophaga *didactyla*. Lin.

Pargolen [sic], Manis. Manis *pentadactyla*. Lin."

Here *Tamandua* is merely a common name and stands on an entirely different footing from *Cyclopes*. A careful examination of this paper will show (1) that the names in the first column of this list are intended as common names, those in the second as genera, and these are followed by the type or included species ; (2) that when the common name is adopted for the genus, it is usually repeated ; and (3) that genera are usually (but not always) followed by the authority, e. g., *Myrmecophaga* Lin. and *Cyclopes* G. Thus Tamanoir, *Tamandua*, Ant-eater, and Pangolin are common names, while *Myrmecophaga*, *Cyclopes*, and *Manis* are genera. The first unquestionable use of *Tamandua* as a genus is in Lesson's 'Nouveau Tableau,' p. 152, 1842, where it is based on *Myrmecophaga tetradactyla* Linn. But as in the case of *Cyclothurus* it is antedated, since *Dryoryx* Gloger, 1841, and *Uroleptes* † Wagler, 1830, were also based on *M. tetradactyla* (of which *M. tamandua* is a synonym). *Uroleptes* has priority over *Dryoryx*, and is apparently the earliest tenable name for the genus.

* Vol. XV, p. 305, Apr. 1, 1821.

† Nat. System d. Amphibien, p. 36, 1830.